

MAY 13 2003

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 20, 2003, applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-3, 5, 12 and 15. In that same Office Action, Claims 6-11, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,001,971, issued to Scott et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,532,316, issued to Henn et al. The Examiner made those rejections FINAL.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6-11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,001,971, issued to Scott et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,532,316, issued to Henn et al. Although applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention regarding the cited art, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the instant application and in keeping with the spirit of the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG) 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000), Claims 6-11, 13 and 14 have been cancelled, thus obviating any grounds for rejection based upon those claims.

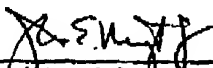
Conclusion

Applicants have cancelled Claims 6-11, 13 and 14 and contend that such claim amendments add no new matter and find support in the specification.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 1-3, 5, 12 and 15. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for other than allowance, she is requested to contact the applicants' Attorney at the telephone number listed below, so that additional changes to the claims may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Fax 703-872-9311 Pages 6

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Response and Amendment after final.

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